

## **East Jemez Resources Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 28, 2005**

### **Attendees:**

Debra Allen-Reid	Forest Service Regional Office
Steve Anderson	NM Game and Fish
Randy Balice	LANL ENV-ECO
Mike Bremer	Forest Service – Espanola
Jennifer Carpenter	Bandelier National Monument
Jason Garcia	Santa Clara Pueblo
Rory Gauthier	Bandelier National Monument
Sandy Hurlocker	Forest Service – Los Alamos
Jackie Little	LANL ENV-ECO
Sam Loftin	LANL ENV-ECO
Lorrie Bonds Lopez	LANL ENV-DO
Jeff Lyon	Santa Clara Pueblo
Bob Parmenter	Valles Caldera National Preserve
Dan Pava	LANL ENV-ECO
Marla Rodgers	Bandelier National Monument
John Stetson	LASO-PWT
Laura Trader	Bandelier National Monument

### **Cultural Resources Working Group Update – Mike Bremer:**

1. Local archeologists continue to plan for upcoming Pecos Conference August 12-14. Approximately 800 attendees are expected to converge at the soccer fields in White Rock. See website ([http://www.swanet.org/2005\\_pecos\\_conference](http://www.swanet.org/2005_pecos_conference)) for details.
2. Mike brought up the subject of the Cañada Research Area, which belongs to the University of New Mexico and was set aside for research purposes. It is apparently part of a land swap involving the state and a private developer. The Council would like to contact UNM for more information on the deal.

### **Valles Caldera National Preserve Update – Bob Parmenter:**

1. LANL and VCNP will be establishing an MOU this spring to collaborate on natural resources research. LANL will provide approximately \$120K funding for LANL personnel to participate in research activities on VCNP. Activities include:
  - a. Complete the geology map
  - b. Elk monitoring, modeling, grazing and site productivity studies
  - c. Radio collaring predator study
  - d. Elk management plan

2. The VCNP has also received funding from the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station for a prescribed fire/elk and cattle grazing study. The RMRS has provided approximately three years of funding which will provide for one preburn sampling period and two years post burn. The burn will be around 1800 acres and is scheduled for this October. The research will address issues of grazing, wildfire, and fuels removal from an upland watershed. The results will also be used to address issues the public may have with the use of prescribed fire.

### **Forest Service Update – Sandy Hurlocker**

1. Sandy introduced himself as the new FS representative for the Los Alamos office. He reported that the Santa Fe Watershed Project treatment implementation was over half way completed and treatments should be finished sometime next year. Thinning has been accomplished through cut and pile and with a mechanical “masticator”.
2. The San Ildefonso purchase is proceeding with the Forest Service working to assure access through the Pueblo property to adjacent public lands.
3. The Forest will be cutting hazard trees along Hwy 4 and burning or grinding piles on Camp May Rd.
4. The Forest is planning a spring maintenance burn along Hwy 502 and is working through issues with DOE.
5. Fuelwood permits will be issued when roads dry out enough to allow access, probably in mid May.
6. The Santa Fe and Carson National Forests are working on a joint Invasive Plant EIS, which should reach a decision by the end of summer.

### **Bandelier Update - Jennifer Carpenter**

1. Bandelier is proposing to open the Cerro Unit to the public sometime this summer. The area would be available for day use only. Primitive trails (routes) to the Cerro Grande and the Alamo Boundary Rt (VCNP) will be established in addition to existing ski trails. The EA is due out by the end of May.
2. The Ecological Restoration EIS is still in progress and after some delay is scheduled to be out by the end of 2005.

### **Bandelier Fire Update – Marla Rodgers**

1. The Bandelier Wildland Fire Management Plan has been approved. Copies are available upon request.
2. In order to standardize FMPs, all agencies are now using the same federally-approved format. This has facilitated the progress of a new interagency wildfire management plan for the Jemez region. Bandelier personnel are leading this collaborative effort.
3. There are plans for two thinning projects along the Dome Rd (289). Starting in mid August, thinning will occur to the south and east of the road for approximately 2.1

miles. Thinning will provide protection for several private inholdings in the area. Thinning on the other side of the road is scheduled for thinning in 2007.

4. Two prescribed burns are scheduled for the Upper Frijoles Treatment Unit this fall.

### **Roundtable Discussion:**

Dan Pava gave an update on the latest meeting of the Trails Assessment Working Group. The group is working on a management program for the regional trail network. The Group is considering issues as diverse as the use of volunteers for trail maintenance, compiling a history of trails, and evaluating to/from cultural resources, wetlands, and potential release sites (potentially contaminated sites). More information on the Group can be found at: <http://em.lanl.gov/tawg.htm>.

Debra Allen-Reid discussed the probability that bark beetle numbers and impact would likely continue to decline. She expressed concern with thinning treatments in ponderosa pine and piñon that pile live green material during the active season. Generally, bark beetles can successfully breed in the material before it is dry enough to burn. Material cut and piled in the winter can often support bark beetles in the spring. The best approach is to pile in August. There is not enough warm weather left to support a new generation of beetles and the wood dries out enough so that it cannot support beetles in the spring.

Jason Garcia reported that Santa Clara Pueblo is collaborating with Bandelier on a historic preservation grant. The Pueblo is also working to acquire additional properties beyond the present boundaries.

John Stetson reported that his office continues to revise the scope of the Supplemental Sitewide EIS. The document may or may not become a full blown sitewide EIS which would represent a substantial increase in effort.

Steve Anderson reported that the NM Game and Fish continues to work elk management issues in the Jemez. They are also collaborating on a fuels management project near Fenton Lake with the State Parks, State Forestry Division, and the Jemez District starting this summer. Game and Fish is also working through issues related to using electrofishing to remove undesirable fish species (mainly brown trout) in an attempt to prepare a stream for native trout reintroduction.

Sam Loftin reported that there will be a Fire Forum next Thursday night (5/5) at Fuller Lodge. Participants will discuss and report on post Cerro Grande Fire rehabilitation results and recovery.